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PATENT APPLICATION
10/688,675

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Michael A. Gill et al.
Serial No.: 10/688,675
Filed: October 17, 2003
Group No.: 3739
Examiner: Rosiland Stacie Rollins
Notice of Allowance Mailed: September 18, 2006
Confirmation No.: 2628
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REMOVING A PROTECTIVE
COVER FROM A MEDICAL INSTRUMENT

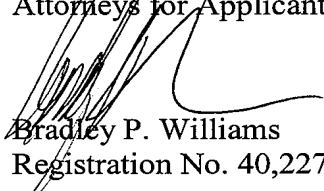
Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1-37. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.104, Applicants respectfully issue a statement commenting on the Examiner's reasons for allowance. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's reasons for allowance to the extent that they are inconsistent with applicable case law, statutes, and regulations. Furthermore, Applicants do not admit to any characterization or limitation of the claims or to any characterization of a reference by the Examiner, particularly any that are inconsistent with the language of the claims considered in their entirety and including all of their constituent limitations.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants


Bradley P. Williams
Registration No. 40,227

Date: 12/15/06
CUSTOMER NO. 05073